

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1, 4 and 8-9 as follows:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A recording system for recording and/or reserving a program, comprising:

receiving means for receiving, via unidirectional communication, the program from a distribution center external to the recording system;

means for accepting a request to record and/or reserve the program;

local storage means for recording the program;

connection means for connecting, via Internet, with an external device which is external to the recording system, the external device separately receiving the program via unidirectional communication from the distribution center independently of the recording system;

determination means for determining a failure in the recording system; and

~~means for~~ controller automatically issuing a recording substitution request to the external device, via the Internet by said connection means, only in response to said determination means determining the failure without input from a user, wherein the external device records the program receiving from the distribution center upon receipt of the recording substitution request.

2. (Previously Presented) The recording system according to claim 1, wherein said determination means generates a negative result when a remaining capacity of said storage means is not sufficient for recording a program requested to be recorded and/or reserved.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) A recording substitution system for substitutionally recording a program from a distribution station, comprising:

connection means for connecting via Internet with external devices which are external to the recording substitution system, the external devices including at least recording devices;

means for receiving the program from the distribution station via unidirectional communication;

first storage means for recording program content of the program;

second storage means for storing the program content with advertising information selected for at least one of the ~~external~~ recording devices;

recording substitution means for responding to reception of a recording substitution request from at least one of the ~~external~~ recording devices which has experienced a failure within the recording device via said connection means and for receiving and recording the program content, corresponding to the request, in said first storage means; and

user information management means for storing user information about each requesting origin,

wherein said recording substitution means obtains said advertising information appropriate for a user attribute of the requesting origin from another external device via the Internet by said connection means and wherein said recording substitution means configured to one of (a) stores the recorded program content from the first storage means and said advertising

information in the second storage means, said advertising information stored as an insert into the recorded program content in addition to original commercial information included in the recorded program content and (b) stores the recorded program content from the first storage means and said advertising information in the second storage means, said advertising information stored as a substitute for the original commercial information included in the recorded program content.

5. (Previously Presented) The recording substitution system according to claim 4, wherein said recording substitution means can receive recording substitution requests from a plurality of external devices and records a program corresponding to a requesting origin.

6. (Previously Presented) The recording substitution system according to claim 4 further comprising user information management means for storing user information about each requesting origin, wherein said recording substitution means records a program in a format appropriate for a user attribute of the requesting origin.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A recording system for recording and/or reserving a program, comprising:

a receiving portion configured to receive the program, via unidirectional communication, from a distribution center external to the recording system;

a request accepting portion configured to accept a request to record and/or reserve the program;

a local storage portion configured to record the program;

a connection portion configured to connect, via Internet with an external storage device external to the recording system, the external storage device separately receives the program via the unidirectional communication from the distribution center independently of the recording system;

a determination portion configured to determine a failure in the recording system;
and

~~an issue~~ a controller portion configured to automatically issue a recording substitution request, to the external storage device via the Internet through the connection portion, ~~in response to~~ only when the determination portion ~~determining~~ determines the failure, wherein upon receiving the recording substitution request the external storage device records the program received from the distribution center.

9. (Currently Amended) A recording substitution system for substitutionally recording a program from a distribution station, comprising:

receiving portion configured to receive, via unidirectional communication, the program from the distribution station;

a first storage portion configured to record program content of the program;

a second storage portion configured to store the program content with advertising content which is received, via Internet, independent of the distribution station;

a connection portion configured to connect via the Internet with external recording devices; and

recording substitution portion configured to (a) respond to reception of a recording substitution request from at least one of the external recording devices, which has experienced a failure within the external recording device, via said connection portion, and (b) receive and record the program content in said first storage portion, and wherein the recording substitution portion is configured to one of (1) store the recorded program content from the first storage portion and new advertising content, received from another external device, in the second storage portion, the new advertising content stored as a replacement for advertising content in the recorded program content and (2) store the recorded program content from the first storage portion and additional advertising content, received from the another external device, in the second storage portion, the additional advertising content stored as an insert into the recorded program content.

10. (Previously Presented) The recording system according to claim 1, wherein the external device including user information management means and a recording substitution means; and
- said user information management means for storing user information about each requesting origin,
- wherein the recording substitution means obtains advertising information appropriate for a user attribute of the requesting origin via said connection means and wherein the recording substitution means configured to one of (a) inserts said advertising information in a recorded program stored in the external device in addition to original commercial information

included in the recorded program and (b) substitutes said advertising information for the original commercial information included in the recorded program.

11. (Previously Presented) The recording system according to claim 8,
wherein the external device including user information management means and a
recording substitution means; and

said user information management means for storing user information about each
requesting origin,

wherein the recording substitution means obtains advertising information
appropriate for a user attribute of the requesting origin via said connection means and wherein
the recording substitution means configured to one of (a) inserts said advertising information in a
recorded program stored in the external device in addition to original commercial information
included in the recorded program and (b) substitutes said advertising information for the original
commercial information included in the recorded program.